



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (213) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XII
No. 2

JAN 15, 1990

CAN VIET VET RON KOVIC BEAT B-1 BOB DORNAN?

Editor's note: In case you haven't heard, and most insiders in L.A. and Orange Co. have, Vietnam vet Ron Kovic, whose life is now the subject of the hit movie, "Born on the 4th of July," (starring Tom Cruise as Kovic), is considering a run against U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan of Orange Co., the conservative Republican that Demos love to hate. Here's CALPEEK's analysis - if this race takes place...

...Certainly it would be a very interesting match and would give the news media something colorful to cover and report about. But getting down to hard realities is yet another question. Dornan's 38th C.D. is VERY conservative territory, even if there is a slight Demo Party majority in registration...

...Two years ago, businessman Jerry Yudelson got just 35.6% against Dornan, while Demo registration was nearly 50%. That means a fair number of Demos happen to like B-1 Bob's brand of politics and crossed party lines to vote for him. Yes, Yudelson was and is a liberal, but today he'd be viewed as moderate next to Kovic, who made a name for himself as an anti-war activist. Many insiders think it takes a strong law & order, moderate Demo to beat Dornan in this particular district...

...The 38th C.D. overlaps with the 72nd A.D. and covers such cities as Santa Ana and Garden Grove. There's even a slice of L.A. County in the 38th. It is also a district of vastly different cultures that have been known to clash: The conservative Whites vs. the new citizens from Asia and Latin America...

...Kovic, of course, would be able to do two things that Yudelson couldn't: raise a credible war chest and create an air of ex-

citement, drawing nationwide attention. But there is a downside too. Some of that war chest might come from what Dornan calls the "Hollywood Left," a group he loves to bash and trash. And if Jane Fonda showed up to campaign for Kovic, that would be like throwing B-1 Bob some RAW MEAT...

...Dornan, despite his often times controversial statements on just about any subject, also takes care of business at home and many sources say he does an EXCELLENT job on constituent services. That's important. Kovic does NOT live in the district, but that's not a requirement. However, carpetbagging as an issue is still a good negative to throw at an opponent. And unlike other areas, Dornan's PRO-LIFE stand does NOT hurt him in this district...

...Bottomline: Kovic will have a very tough time beating Dornan, but it would be a fun contest to watch. Stay tuned...

GOV. DUKE'S LAST STATE OF STATE TALK CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF SCA 1 AND AFFORDABLE HOMES.

In his final State of the State address to the Calif. Legislature last week, it was very obvious to CALPEEK sources that Gov. George Deukmejian doesn't want to be remembered as "Governor Gridlock." Deukmejian said passage of SCA 1 (The Traffic Congestion Relief & Spending Limitation Act of 1990) was "absolutely essential to the economic future of Calif."...

...Those are the strongest words yet uttered by the governor, who's public pronouncements on SCA 1 have been very few, despite the fact that SCA 1 has been under increasing attack...

...One of the more vocal critics of SCA 1 is the CA Building Industry Assn. (CBIA). In last week's lead story in CALPEEK, CBIA

{Continued Next Page}

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK [ISSN 0195-6175] IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF PUBLIC POLICY PUBLISHING, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (213) 659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$85.00/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHT BY PUBLIC POLICY PUBLISHING, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SEC. OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

sources indicated they opposed SCA 1 because of the traffic mitigation fees which would be imposed in certain cases, if SCA 1 becomes law. The fees would be paid by the home builders/developers, but ultimately would be reflected in higher costs for home & condo buyers — thus making the AFFORDABLE HOME only a dream and not a reality...

...Lame Duck Duke must have been listening because a key element in his 1990 legislative agenda is a \$2 billion Housing Opportunity Program for first time buyers. The governor is no fool. He knows if Calif.'s economy is to grow, business must expand. That means hiring new people. But if housing costs are BEYOND REACH, then Calif.'s economy could stagnate. This is the same fear voiced by the CBIA. Thus Deukmejian's Housing Opportunity Program may be one answer to this very serious problem...

...How bad is the situation with regard to AFFORDABLE HOUSING? Nationwide, 47% of households can qualify for a mortgage on a \$93,000 home — median price in the U.S. In Calif., only 19% can qualify for the mortgage and the median price is a staggering \$195,000...

...The most expensive areas in Calif. are in S.F. and Ventura Co., where only 11% can qualify for a mortgage. Median home price in the S.F. Bay area is \$261,908 and in Ventura it's \$252,244. In L.A., only 14% can qualify for a \$224,625 home (median price)...

...Are there any bright spots? A few. If you want a condominium, the median price in Calif. is \$144,643 — 31% can qualify for a condo mortgage. The most affordable housing marketing in Calif. is in Sacto, where the median price is \$118,466 — 36% can qualify for mortgages in this market. The stats are from the CA Assn. of Realtors and reflect info from November 1989. More in the weeks ahead. Stay tuned...

COURT TO HEAR LEWIS APPEAL ON FORGERY LAW.

In what could be a rather significant court test, the State's 3rd District Court of Appeals is supposed to hear oral arguments Jan. 17 by attorneys for Assemblyman John Lewis(R-Orange), stating that his indictment in the 1986 Phony White House letters case should be dismissed because Calif.'s forgery laws do not apply...

...Almost a year ago, Feb. 6, 1989, Lewis was indicted by a grand jury on one count of felony forgery in connection with this case. Back in 1986, according to the grand jury transcript (which was made public some time ago), Lewis ordered the distribution of Presidential letters (with Ronald Reagan's forged signature) on behalf of six GOP assembly candidates. The candidates were unaware that White House authorization had not been given...

...Should the 3-court panel rule in favor of the prosecution, then it's POSSIBLE one other well known case involving a partially forged endorsement letter might go forward in L.A. County. That's the now famous NRA endorsement letter that was sent out on behalf of now-Assemblyman Willard Murray. But if the court panel decides in favor of Lewis, then the concept of using forgery laws as a way to prosecute those who produce and distribute phony endorsement documents (letters, mailgrams, flyers), would be useless. A ruling is expected sometime in mid-February. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: CA BALLOT MEASURE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here is an update on ballot measure/campaign activity for 1990. The deadline for qualifying measures for the November 1990 ballot is June 26th. FYI: Three initiatives have qualified for the June 1990 ballot: The Speedy Trial initiative; the \$1.9 billion Rail Transportation Bond Act; and the Wildlife Protection initiative...

- The so-called EPA Initiative backed by Demo AG John Van de Kamp and Assemblymen Tom Hayden(D-Santa Monica) and Lloyd Connelly(D-Sacto), has been given the green light to begin gathering 372,178 signatures in order to qualify for the November ballot. Deadline is Apr. 27th. For info, contact Bob Mulholland at (916)447-8950...

- Competing with the EPA measure will a separate initiative sponsored by a group calling itself Californians for Responsible Food Laws(CAREFUL). Bob Vice, president of the CA Farm Bureau, is the coalition chair, while David Moore, president of the Western Growers Assn., is the coalition's vice chair. CAREFUL has retained the services of The Dolphin Group of L.A. as campaign consultants. The 11-plank measure has been submitted to the AG for title & summary.

For info, contact Carl Haglund (213)208-6777...

...Not to be confused with this measure are efforts already underway by the Western Agricultural Chemical Assn.(WAGA). They have hired Burlingame based Woodward & McDowell as consultants. Sources say it now seems more likely that the WAGA effort will concentrate on fighting the VdK/Hayden EPA measure than in drafting a third measure dealing with food safety and pesticides. Working with W&M on this account is Sacto based consultant Charles Cavalier...

- Just after CALPEEK went on vacation, Gov. Deukmejian named Woodward & McDowell of Burlingame to run the SCA 1 campaign. Sacto consultant Charles Cavalier will be the day-to-day mgr...

- Boris Isaacson, who heads up a group called Tax Free Calif., has been given the green light to collect 595,485 signatures in order to qualify his measure to phase out all existing taxes and fees (with limited exceptions) by July 1, 1992. In the place of taxes, there would be a trade charge of up to 1% on the value of property or services traded. The measure would also stop the government from spending more than \$90 billion per year. Isaacson can be contacted at (818)763-1000...

- The Taxpayers Right-to-Vote Initiative has been filed with the AG's office by two major taxpayer groups founded by the late Howard Jarvis and Paul Gann. There are 5 major points dealing with taxes, including one plank that prevents any new special taxes on tangible personal property from being more than 1% of the property's value, as established by Prop. 13. For info, contact consultant Ray McNally at (916)447-8186...

- Opponents of the Alcohol Tax Initiative have finally organized under the name of Taxpayers for Common Sense. As reported previously, Nelson/Ralston/Robb Communications is in overall charge of the campaign. The PBN Company of S.F. is also aboard the campaign, handling media and grassroots organizing...

...TCS has just released an economic survey by Dr. Steve L. Barsby & Associates which claims if this measure is okayed, economic

activity in CA will drop by \$2.3 billion per year...

- AG John Van Kamp has been given the okay to begin circulating his own crime initiative. It is titled, "Crime. Taxation. Bonds." VdK needs 595,485 signatures by Apr. 30 to qualify for the November 1990 ballot. This measure closes a federal tax loophole (bringing in some \$561 million in 1991), with the money going to State and local government to fight drugs, gangs, etc. The second part of the measure is an ALMOST exact copy of the Speedy Trial/Crime Victims Initiative, which HAS qualified for the June 1990 ballot. The key difference: VdK's measure has no reference to privacy - thus, according to VdK and his supporters, a woman's right to have an abortion is not endangered. For info on the VdK crime measure (916)442-2952...

- The third of VdK's initiatives, this one dealing with campaign reform & ethics, has been given the okay to begin circulation. VdK, L.A. attorney John Phillips and San Jose Mayor Tom McEnergy have until May 7 to collect 595,485 signatures if they are to make the November 1990 ballot. The official title is "Government Officials. Ethics. Campaign Financing." This is the measure which restricts the number of terms that either legislators or statewide officers can serve. For info, (916)442-2952...

- Another campaign finance reform plan titled, "Candidates. Campaign Finances. Gifts," has been given the okay to begin collecting 372,178 signatures by May 14 to qualify for the November ballot. The proponent is Gareth W. Neumann of Glendale. Neumann's plan has a "resign and run" rule, which forbids "free rides" for elected officials. The measure also requires that campaign contributions be spent only on actual campaign expenditures, and that any surplus contributions be turned over to the Controller after the campaign is over. But the most restrictive part of the proposal is a contribution limit of no more than \$25 from any single source --- except by a candidate to his or her own campaign. Neumann can be reached at (714)630-1144...

- "Ownership of Firearms" is an initiative sponsored by Bernadine Smith and Gerald G. Hurt. This measure would bar public officials, the legislature or any

public body from denying, curtailing, prohibiting, or taxing the right to bear arms. Smith and Hurt have until May 11 to collect 595,485 signatures if they are to qualify for the November 1990 ballot. Smith can be contacted at (209)584-5209. Hurt can be contacted at (209)992-5156...

- Assemblywoman Doris Allen(R-Cypress) has been given the okay to begin collecting 595,485 signatures by May 7 in order to qualify her measure which establishes a Marine Protection Zone, 3 miles off the Calif. coast from Pt. Arguello and the Mexican Border. The aim is to eventually stop the use of gill or trammel nets for fishing in this area. For info, (916)445-6233...

- "A Day Without Starvation." That's the aim of proponent Eleanor D. George of Long Beach, who has been given the green light to begin collecting 372,178 names, if she is to qualify her statute for the November 1990 ballot. This measure directs that the governor proclaim a date within 3 years of the measure's effective date to be a Day Without Starvation. George can be reached at (714)882-5099...

A TRIBUTE TO POLITICAL PRO HARRY LERNER.

While on vacation, CALPEEK learned of the passing on Nov. 2, 1989 of Harry Lerner, after a long battle with cancer. Harry was a Demo campaign consultant, whose last major effort was in 1974, working for Demo AG candidate Bill Norris. Although he did not invent the negative campaign, Harry was the all time MASTER of the political hit. Yet he was a total gentleman and a very kind and thoughtful individual. During his career, Lerner was a reporter for the S.F. Chronicle and was the chief political operative/lobbyist for what is now Greyhound. As a political consultant, Lerner worked for Demos such as former Gov. Pat Brown...

NEW JOBS, NEW ACCOUNTS, NEW ORGANIZATIONS.

Editor's note: Here's a brief summary of personnel notes, etc.

- Hugh Smith is the new president of the CA Apartment Assn. The group is a federation of 25 local associations. Smith is an active member of the Pasadena-based Foot-hill Apartment Assn...

- Laguna Beach Mayor Robert Gentry and San Mateo Co. Sup. Tom Nolan are the first co-chairs of the CA Assn. of Lesbian & Gay Elected Government Officials (CAL/G EGO). HQ is at 824 Winslow St., #214, Redwood City, CA 94063 (415)368-7112. Board members include S.F. Co. Sup. Harry Britt, Councilwoman Judy Abdo of Santa Monica, Councilmen Steve Shulte and John Heilman of West Hollywood, Councilman John Laird of Santa Cruz, and Councilman Joel Hecht of Acton...

- Tammy Bruce is the 1990 president of L.A. Now, the Los Angeles chapter of the Nat'l Organization for Women. L.A. Now has also elected its first MALE officer. He is T. Santora, a community activist. Santora was elected VP of Membership Education...

- Political reporter Linda Breakstone joins KABC-TV Eyewitness News as part of the station's political team...

- ARCO political affairs exec. Yvonne Nix is the 1990 president of Young Executives of America...

- McElroy Communications of Sacto will be the campaign consultant on the Wildlife Protection Initiative and the \$1.9 billion Rail Transportation Bond Act. Both have qualified for the June 1990 ballot...

MARKETPLACE NETWORK

- **SUCCESSFUL SO. CALIF.** political consulting firm seeks to merge for Statewide, regional and national opportunities. Prefer moderate GOP partners. Reply in writing or phone; to CALPEEK, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213 or (213)659-0205. CALPEEK will forward responses to the party listing this Marketplace ad...

CALPEEK's Marketplace Network is a listing of employer/employee availabilities for those engaged in campaign consulting/PA/PR/govt. relations/lobbying. The cost for each listing is \$25 for up to 40 words. Add \$5 for each additional 10 words. Send ad copy with advanced payment to CALPEEK's Marketplace, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. For info (213)659-0205...